

CENTRAL VALLEY JOINT VENTURE

Conserving Bird Habitat in California's Central Valley

July 30, 2010

Conservation Organizations

Audubon California

CA Association of Resource
Conservation Districts

California Waterfowl

Defenders of Wildlife

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

PRBO Conservation Science

River Partners

The Nature Conservancy

Trust for Public Land

Agencies & Corporate

CA Dept. of Fish and Game

CA Dept. of Water Resources

CA Natural Resources Agency

CA State Parks

CA Wildlife Conservation
Board

Pacific Gas & Electric

US Army Corps of Engineers

US Bureau of Land
Management

US Bureau of Reclamation

US Environmental Protection
Agency

US Fish and Wildlife Service

US Geological Survey

USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Chairman Phil Isenberg,
Delta Stewardship Council
650 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: Delta Stewardship Council Interim Delta Plan

Dear Chairman Isenberg,

The Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV) is a self-directed coalition comprised of nine conservation organizations, twelve state and federal agencies and one corporation. This partnership directs its efforts toward the common goal of providing habitat for migrating and resident birds in the Central Valley of California in accordance with its 2006 Implementation Plan (Plan). The Plan provides defined science-based strategies for conserving required habitats. These strategies include land protection, securing water supplies, habitat restoration and enhancements in each of nine wetland basins in the Central Valley. Three basins (Yolo, Delta, and Suisun) are in the legislatively-mandated areas of responsibility for the Delta Stewardship Council, and are included in the area of study for the development of the Interim Delta Plan and the Delta Plan.

Pursuant to the recently enacted water policy legislation, the Delta Stewardship Council has been tasked with creating a Delta Plan that includes performance measures for the health of the Delta's estuary and wetland ecosystems for supporting viable populations of aquatic and terrestrial species, habitats and processes (California Public Resources Code § 85211). The Delta Plan is required to include measures that promote viable population of native resident and migratory species and restore habitat where necessary to avoid a net loss of migratory bird habitat, and where feasible, increase migratory bird habitat to promote viable populations of migratory birds. *Id.* at § 85302 (c)(1), (e)(5).

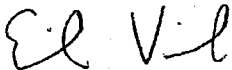
In order to assist the Delta Stewardship Council in meeting these important requirements, the CVJV requests the Council review and utilize, where appropriate, the Plan goals while developing the Interim Delta Plan and the Delta Plan. The CVJV appreciates the daunting task and aggressive timeline to implement the legislated requirements of the 2009 Comprehensive Water Package. In implementing this charge, the Delta Stewardship Council is tasked to utilize the best

available scientific information and existing published information to direct the development of a Delta Plan to guide state and local actions in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. The CVJV feels that the Plan, which is based on sound science, will be critical in those efforts and we are willing to provide technical assistance to the Council to plan future actions in the Delta, Yolo and Suisun Marsh Basins.

Although the Plan has been referenced during recent Delta planning efforts, the contents have not always been accurately portrayed. For example, the 2008 Delta Vision Strategic Plan misinterpreted the conclusions of the CVJV Plan for tidal wetland restoration goals and impacts to migratory birds in the Suisun Marsh. We would like to begin a dialogue to avoid these types of errors and to work collaboratively to insure the new Delta/Suisun planning documents are scientifically sound and insure no net loss of migratory bird habitat.

The CVJV Plan can be viewed and downloaded from our website at the following address: http://www.centralvalleyjointventure.org/materials/CVJV_fnl.pdf. Hard copies of the Plan can be obtained by contacting Bob Shaffer, Joint Venture Coordinator, either by phone at (916) 414-6460 or email at robert_shaffer@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Vink'.

Erik Vink
Management Board Chairman

cc: Central Valley Joint Venture Management Board
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Interim Executive Officer Delta Stewardship Council